

Questions and Answers on the U.S. District Court for Oregon's Ruling on Wolf Reclassification

What does this District Court Decision mean for Great Lakes States?

We can not at this time say precisely how the court's ruling will affect management of the wolf populations of the Great Lakes States.

What does this District Court Decision mean for geographic areas in the Northern Rockies encompassed by 10(j) special rules for non-essential experimental populations of the gray wolf?

Lands within the geographic areas covered by 10(j) special rules for experimental non-essential populations of the gray wolf in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, and the implementation of programs directly connected with the provisions of the 10(j) special rules are not affected by this District Court decision.

What does this District Court Decision mean for geographic areas in the Northern Rockies encompassed by the 4(d) special rule for the gray wolf?

As a result of this recent court ruling, gray wolf populations, covered by the special rule under 4(d) of the ESA which provided flexibility to States and private landowners to manage wolves that depredate livestock outside of experimental populations areas in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, need to manage wolves differently. Since the wolves are now listed as endangered instead of threatened, the full prohibitions under the ESA will apply. Consequently, private landowners and States will no longer be able to harm, harass, or kill wolves depredating livestock.

We are currently reviewing this court decision and its implications to determine how best to work with affected States and landowners to best manage wolf populations in cooperation with these landowners.

What does this District Court Decision mean for wolves in the Southwest?

The wolf in the Southwest remains endangered, with the exception of those animals in the non-essential, experimental population area, where they retain their non-essential, experimental status.